

TRBL Holland Branch Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 3 December/January 2011/2012

Chairman's Chat

This Chairman's Chat is adapted from my Chairman's Report made at the Branch AGM on Friday 18th November 2011.

Regrettably the attendance of our membership at the AGM was extremely disappointing, even fewer members than last year bothering to turn up – there were more Branch Officers present than members – 17 of us in total, this being a meagre representation of our current membership number of 180. We, as a Branch, can survive only with the active support of you, our members. So, once again, I repeat my appeal from last year, to you all:-

- **Attend, at least local, Remembrance Ceremonies**
- **Support Social Events**
- **Contribute to our Branch Newsletter**
- **Communicate your ideas or suggestions to our Branch Committee**
- **Volunteer to assist with our annual Poppy Collection**
- **Take an active role in recruiting new members**

As we all know, TRBL celebrated its 90th Anniversary this year. This was the cause of great celebration and many festivities in England and further afield. We should naturally be proud of this milestone and, whilst looking back to our roots, seek to build on our future. During the past year all members of your Committee have been extremely busy and made great efforts to ensure the continuation of The Royal British Legion presence in the Netherlands. There have been a number of changes in Committee members:-

- **Mr. Alistair Bright** was appointed Branch Secretary at the BCM of 22nd January 2011
- **Mrs. Rie Hadingue** resigned as Branch Treasurer at the beginning of February
- **Mr. Ray Waller** was subsequently appointed as new Branch Treasurer
- **Mr. Dan Murphy** (not a formal Committee Member) stood down as Eastern Area Representative during the

summer. I have since sent him a letter and Certificate of Appreciation for his more than 45 years dedicated service to The Legion and particularly in his function as chairman of the former Arnhem/Nijmegen Branch.

- **Mr. Ken Lightwood** was subsequently appointed as Eastern Area Representative
- **Mr. Laurens van Aggelen** was appointed as Public Relations Officer at our BCM in August
- **Mrs. Machteld Alblas** resigned as Membership Secretary in September, and her duties were taken over by Branch Secretary Mr. Alistair Bright



Swartbroek churchyard, 13th November 2011. The Chairman with a group of schoolchildren from the St. Laurentius School in Swartbroek.

The Branch received a number of new applications for membership, three of whom, Mr. Nico v/d Water, Mr. Henk Duinhoven MBE and Mr. Peter Thomson, were present at our AGM, and the last named gentleman, having volunteered for the post of Membership Secretary, and having received the unanimous approval of your Committee, is therefore accepted for this function. **The responsibility for recruitment of new members to The Legion lies with us all.**

With the authorisation of your Committee I ordered a Branch Standard. As an 'amalgamated Branch' we retain posses-

sion of the Standards of the former Amsterdam, Arnhem/Nijmegen and Eindhoven Branches – but as from now, we can parade our own 'Holland Branch' Standard at all ceremonies.

Mrs. Rosalin Emerson, our long standing, stalwart Poppy Appeal Organiser has taken a reluctant decision to step down from this function for personal and health reasons. We, the Holland Branch, the former Amsterdam Branch in particular, and the RBL in general, are very grateful to her for all her years of dedicated service. Her contribution to our organisation will be sorely missed. Our Branch therefore, now needs a volunteer to take on this responsibility – **who among you will respond to this appeal?** Meanwhile, for the current Poppy Appeal, Mr. Ken Lightwood and Mr. Ray Waller have kindly volunteered to liaise with Rosalin and organize the collection of poppy monies from the many venues.

Members of the Committee have attended many Remembrance and Liberation Ceremonies throughout the year. I represented the Branch at venues in North Brabant and Limburg. This year also saw the initial organisation of a RBL Remembrance Ceremony at Oosterbeek on 13th November, on the initiative of Mr. Ray Waller, Mr. Laurens van Aggelen and Mr. Ken Lightwood.

We congratulated our members **Mr. Beijerbergen van Henegouwen** on his 100th birthday, and **Mr. Ken Woolley**, (builder of the 'Bailey Bridge' over the canal at Son during operation 'Market Garden' in September 1944), on his 90th birthday. So we continue to honour our Veterans. However, my hope for the forthcoming Legion Year is that we shall all make efforts to extend our membership to the younger generation, who are the future not only of The Holland Branch, but The Royal British Legion in general.

I extend to you all my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New (Legion) Year.

John Bright





Please pay your Membership dues!

This is an urgent request to all those members who have not yet paid their membership dues for 2011/2012, to please do so as soon as possible, but at the very latest by **January 20th 2012**. If your membership fee has not been received by that date, the committee will be obliged to return your membership card to London HQ, signalling that you have unfortunately chosen not to continue your membership of The Royal British Legion. Should you wish to renew your membership after this date, you will have to reapply for membership using the official membership application form. You will also be issued with a new membership number. Therefore please save the Legion the extra paperwork by either transferring your membership dues at your earliest convenience or informing us that you intend not to renew your membership. Thanking you in advance, and looking forward to enjoying your support in this new Legion year!

The membership secretary

P.S. The payment details are as follows:

Kindly transfer €25 to the ABN/AMRO bank account number 41.64.12.777, in name of The Royal British Legion, stating your name and 'Membership 2011/2012'.

Belated Happy Birthday to:

- Mr. T.P.J. Teunissen
- M.C. Grady
- E.R.A. Geschiere
- R.W. Shargool
- P.E. Mertens
- P.R. Courthold
- Ms. C. Wieman
- Mr. J. Peeters
- Mr. M. de Bruijn
- Mrs. M. Van Draanen
- Dr. J.M.H.P. Timmermans
- Mr. E. Mons
- Mr. Paulssen
- Mr. P.J. Witteveen
- Mr. S.E. Wells
- Mr. R.E.A. Vaneker
- Mr. H. Disseldorp
- Mr. G. Alblas
- Mr. R. Kloosterman
- Mrs. L.G. Van Vliet-Teters
- Mr. N. de Water
- Mrs. L. Jobse
- Mr. H. Kemper
- Mr. A.T. Winckle



Britain, England and the English

There are only three things against living in Britain: the place, the climate, and the people

Jimmy Edwards

We are a small country with a large sense of its own importance

David Walliams

We are English, that is one good fact

Oliver Cromwell

Nobody can be truly English until he can say "really" in 17 different ways

Paul Johnson

The World is a place on which England is found

G.K. Chesterton

A family with the wrong members in control—that, perhaps, is as near as one can come to describing England in a phrase

George Orwell

In England, we have come to rely on a comfortable time-lag of 50 years or a century intervening between the perception that something ought to be done and a serious attempt to do it

H.G. Wells

We may be a small country but we are a nation of Shakespeare, Churchill, The Beatles, Sean Connery, Harry Potter, David Beckham's right foot... David Beckham's left foot come to that

Richard Curtis

From Great British Wit, by Rosemarie Jarski (Ebury Press, 2005)

Veterans' stories wanted!

Film company Legasee is looking for war veterans who would like to have their stories filmed for posterity. Legasee would like to speak to ex-Service men and women of any age, who served in any campaign in any role, and who wish to recall their experiences in front of the camera for the benefit of future generations. The footage will be used to launch a unique online archive of interviews for use by schools, colleges and members of the public. Any travel expenses incurred will be paid for and each participant will receive a complimentary DVD or VHS copy of their film.

If you're interested in taking part or know of someone who is, please contact Dave Player on +44(0)1992719363 or email dave@legasee.org.uk. For more information, visit www.legasee.org.uk.





Anthem for Doomed Youth / Lofzang op Gedoemde Jonge Gasten Wilfred Owen (1893-1918)

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?
 Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
 Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
 Can patter out their hasty orisons.
 No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells,
 Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs, —
 The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
 And bugles calling for them from sad shires

What candles may be held to speed them all?
 Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes
 Shall shine the holy glimmers of good-byes.
 The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
 Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,
 And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

Welk klokgeluid betaamt voor wie vergaan als dieren?
 Alleen het monsterlijke woeden van mortieren.
 Of neen, alleen de ratel van een mitraillette —
 Geen mens raffelt zo schoon een laatste schietgebed.

Voor hen geen bel of toeters, krans of kerkhofblom.
 Geen treurmuziek — tenzij stampeï van die orkesten
 Die slechts bestaan uit slagwerk van kartets en bom
 En bugels, jankend over droevige gewesten.

Waar brandt hun kaars? De vlam die hun ten afscheid heet?
 Niet in de hand van jonge broertjes. In hun ogen
 Laat nooit het vuur dat hen gedenken zal zich doven.

De bleekheid van verloofdes dient hun lijk tot kleed.
 Een bloem: de tedere berusting der beminden.
 En elke schemering: het luiken van de blinden.

Tom Lanoye's *Niemand's Land, Gedichten uit de Grote Oorlog* (Prometheus, 2002)

Tilehurst Parade Poem

A Salvation Army bugler who has been playing for more than 80 years blew his final Last Post on Sunday. Arthur Allen, 90, of Park Lane, Tilehurst, played for the last time at Tilehurst Remembrance Day Parade at The Triangle.

Known to all as Oly, Mr Allen learned to play as a boy with Reading West Salvation Army Corps. He served with the REME for seven years, completing his service in India in 1946.

As bandmaster, he played in Tilehurst at the Remembrance Day parade from 1966 to 1999, when he retired with his wife Phyllis to live in Devon. When she died two years ago he returned to Tilehurst and resumed his role as bugler.

He said: "I am 90 and so is the Royal British Legion. It seemed the right time to retire and let other younger players take over."

Also at the Tilehurst parade, a poem by Birch Copse School pupil Rachel Cornish, 10, was read by British Legion member Christine Lewendon:

*The bugles that were singing stopped
 At exactly 11 o'clock.
 Soldiers, uncles, aunts and brothers
 side by side with fathers and mothers
 All joined together on this November day
 Beside the monument where poppy
 wreaths lay
 Remembering those who lost their lives
 In fields full of battle cries.
 Courageous young soldiers who fell for
 their countries,
 Who fought in the skies, on the land and
 high seas
 Brave men and women who shall rest in
 peace
 Now their war is over and the fighting has
 ceased.
 So today we wear red poppies with pride
 To never forget all those who have died.*

Thanks to Janet Bright for submitting this poem for inclusion.

Source: http://www.getreading.co.uk/news/s/2103430_bugler_plays_his_last_post

New Members

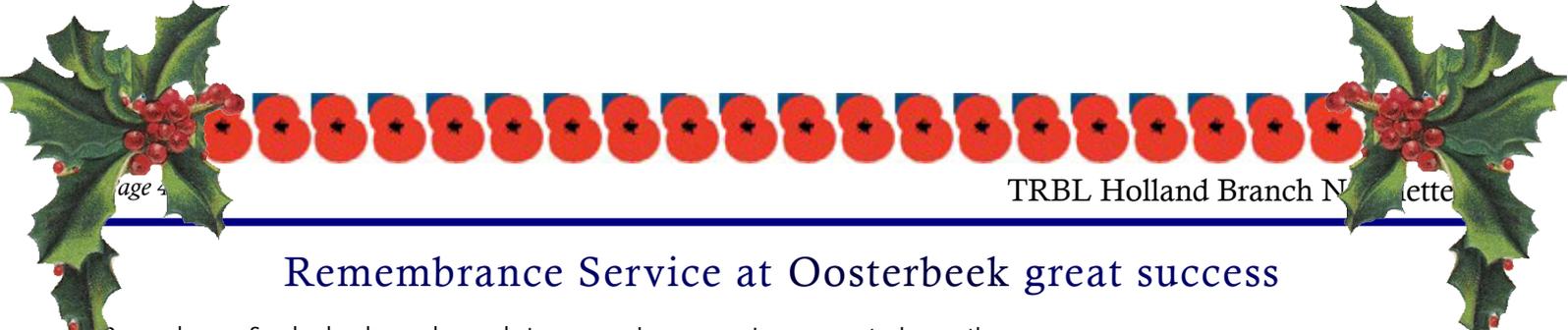
We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

- Major M. Smith
- Mr. R. Howard
- Mrs. J. Melis
- Mrs. M. Raaijmakers-Farrell
- Mr. George Steen

RIP

We regret to inform you of the passing of our member Mr. N.L. Merrick. Our thoughts go out to his family and loved ones, particularly Mrs. J.J. Merrick-Versteeg.





Remembrance Service at Oosterbeek great success

Remembrance Sunday has been observed at various locations throughout the Netherlands for many years. Remarkably enough, the Airborne cemetery at Oosterbeek is not one of those locations. Thanks to our committee members Ray Waller, Ken Lightwood and Laurens van Aggelen, this year has seen all that change.

“Remembrance Sunday simply should be a regular fixture at Oosterbeek”, says Laurens van Aggelen, PR Officer of TRBL Holland Branch. In 2009 he published a book on this special cemetery that harbours 1764 graves of predominantly British and Polish soldiers who lost their lives during or shortly after the Battle of Arnhem in 1944. Every year, a memorial service is held at the Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery, as the cemetery is officially called, in remembrance of these courageous fighters. The highlight of this remembrance service is the laying of flowers by dozens of schoolchildren. As a result of these annual commemorations many friendships have been formed between veterans, their families and local inhabitants. “Remembrance is deeply rooted in these parts. Interest in the various September

remembrance services seems to be on the rise, also among the younger generations”, according to Van Aggelen.

Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday were, however, relatively unknown phenomena in Arnhem and Oosterbeek. Despite this, the remembrance service that was held on November 13th proved that there was enough merit for such a ceremony. This was further attested by the words of praise and commendation received by TRBL Holland Branch. Attendance exceeded expectations, with a turn-out of more than 100 people. Although it was a cold Autumn day, the weather did not unduly disrupt proceedings. Besides several old and younger veterans and Branch members, a guard of honour formed by the Luchtmobiele Brigade and a bugler were present. The ceremonial musical accompaniment was provided by members of the Pipes and Drums of the Royal British Legion, the Netherlands. One of the first to lay a wreath was deputy mayor Van Lent, on behalf of the college van B&W of the municipality of Renkum. After the ceremony, all in attendance had the opportunity to gather and socialize in the nearby hotel Dreyeroord in Oosterbeek.

Van Aggelen: “The many heartwarming reactions received and the extensive press coverage form an additional incentive for us to continue this tradition. Now that this inaugural ceremony has received so much attention, we are convinced that attendance will increase markedly next year, particularly as there is always considerable interest in this area in attending such remembrance services. We also hope that in future years, a greater number of our own members will make the trip over to the Airborne cemetery on Remembrance Sunday. The chance to catch up with one another during such an occasion will only serve to forge special ties.”

It might be a good idea to make an advance note of Remembrance Sunday in your 2012 diary. For those of you who do travel to Oosterbeek by public transport, be aware that the Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery is in walking distance from the nearby Oosterbeek NS train station.

Laurens van Aggelen

Photographs courtesy of Cathy Otten



The Joint 90th Anniversary Commemoration at Ypres

On July 2nd 2011, a joint 90th Anniversary Commemoration ceremony was held at Ypres, Belgium. Afternoon tea in St Georges Church Hall was followed by a Joint Service of Commemoration at St Georges Memorial Church. After a highly enjoyable reception including a delicious buffet, everyone assembled outside the magnificent Cloth Hall where a marching band put on quite a show. The highlights of the day included the parade to Menin Gate, the sounding of the Last Post and the wreath-laying ceremony. The ceremony was attended by the British Ambassador, the National Chairman of the RBL plus many local dignitaries. The Royal British Legion Holland Branch also laid a wreath. Below a photographic impression of that day. Top right: All are gathered in front of the Cloth Hall, watching the marching band. Top left: the standard bearers parade to Menin Gate. Middle right: standards held aloft under the Menin Gate. Middle left: a bugler plays the Last Post. Bottom left: the poppy wreaths laid at Menin Gate. Bottom right: a large number of people turned up to observe the ceremony.





ELECTED OFFICIALS 2011/2012

Branch President

Mr. J.H. Cameron-Webb
British Consulate-General Amsterdam
Koningstraat 1075 AE Amsterdam

020-6764343

BRANCH COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chairman

Mr. J.B. Bright
Vrouwgeestweg 7
2481 KM Woubrugge

0172-744800
e-mail: j.b.bright@casema.nl

Vice-Chairman

Mr. D.R. Williams
Dirk Vreekenstraat 157
1019 DP Amsterdam

06-17854356
e-mail: superchefw@hotmail.com

Hon. Secretary

Mr. A.J. Bright
Virulypad 71
2316 ZT Leiden

06-14629515
e-mail: caribbright@gmail.com

Hon. Treasurer

Mr. R.J. Waller
Recreatie Park Arnhem
Kemperbergerweg 771
6816 RW Schaarsbergen

06-27506049
e-mail: RayWaller@btinternet.com

BRANCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Welfare Officer

Mr. D.R. Williams

06-17854356

Poppy Appeal Officer

Vacant

Rotterdam Area Representative

Mrs. E.E. van Gelderen
Karel Doormanstraat 297B
3012 GH Rotterdam

010-4827584
e-mail: eevangelderen@kpnplanet.nl

Eastern Area Representative

Mr. K. Lightwood

06-25092064
email: hjlandman1@telfort.nl

Membership Secretary

Mr. P. Thomson

e-mail: membership@trblhollandbranch.nl

Events Officer

Mr. H. de Jonge
Bergvennen 8
2036 CC Haarlem

023-5333126

Standard Bearer

Mr. A. Rotscheid
Gildestraat 76
6711 DM Ede

0318-633509
e-mail: ad.rotscheid@tiscali.nl

P.R. Officer

Mr. L. van Aggelen
Utrechtseweg 154
6812 AK Arnhem

026-3623858
e-mail: laurens@aggelen.com

Deputy Standard / Union Flag Bearer

Mr. D.R. Williams

06-17854356

Website Manager / Newsletter Editor

Mr. A.J. Bright

06-14629515

